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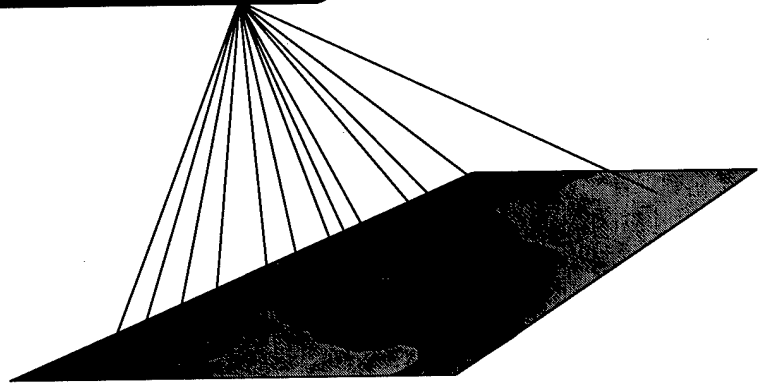
**USACERL Technical Report 97/39  
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# **Biodiversity Survey Guidelines With Emphasis on Threatened and Endangered Species**

by  
Clifford G. Rice

## **BIODIVERSITY**

Threatened and  
Endangered Species



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U.S. Army lands total nearly 12 million acres that must be managed in compliance with Federal and state environmental laws, including the Endangered Species Act. These legal requirements and stewardship objectives are the basis for the requirement that surveys of biodiversity and threatened and endangered species be conducted. These guidelines are intended to assist Army land managers in carrying out these surveys.

The guidelines are presented as an eight-step process as follows: (1) define objectives and scope, (2) gather background information on individual species, (3) gather background information on the survey area, (4) refine objective and scope, (5) prepare the survey plan, (6) obtain all permits and licenses (7) conduct the surveys, and (8) report the findings. Because these surveys often are completed under contract, sample items for developing scopes of work are included in an appendix.

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13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words) U.S. Army lands total nearly 12 million acres that must be managed in compliance with Federal and state environmental laws, including the Endangered Species Act. These legal requirements and stewardship objectives are the basis for the requirement that surveys of biodiversity and threatened and endangered species be conducted. These guidelines are intended to assist Army land managers in carrying out these surveys.  The guidelines are presented as an eight-step process as follows: (1) define objectives and scope, (2) gather background information on individual species, (3) gather background information on the survey area, (4) refine objective and scope, (5) prepare the survey plan, (6) obtain all permits and licenses (7) conduct the surveys, and (8) report the findings. Because these surveys often are completed under contract, sample items for developing scopes of work are included in an appendix.				
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## Foreword

This study was conducted for the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management (ACS(IM)) under Project 4A162720A896, "Environmental Quality Technology"; Work Unit LN-TY5, "Inventory and Monitoring of Threatened and Endangered Species." The technical monitor was Phil Pierce, DAIM-ED-R.

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# 1 Introduction

## Background

Army installations are directed by Department of Army regulations (Army Regulation 200-3, *Natural Resources — Land, Forest and Wildlife Management*) and Federal law (such as the Endangered Species Act) to conserve endangered species and biodiversity.\* This is an important objective as Army lands total nearly 12 million acres, much of which remains in a natural or semi-natural state. Such areas contain extensive habitat for both endangered and other species of wildlife and plants. With the intensity of land use and consequent habitat modification increasing both on Army lands and elsewhere, the significance of the Army land in national biodiversity and endangered species conservation is steadily increasing. Accordingly, the Army has unequivocally stated its intention to be a national leader in natural resource stewardship, including the preservation and conservation of endangered species (U.S. Army 1992).

In addition to the broad policy directive to conserve biodiversity, the Endangered Species Act (Section 7) mandates far-reaching and specific procedures for ensuring that Federal agencies do not engage in activities that are likely to "jeopardize the continued existence" of an endangered species or destroy or adversely modify critical habitat. Specifically, the agency, in this case the Army, must consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on any proposed activity (action) that the Army determines may affect a threatened or endangered species. If the USFWS concurs that the proposed activity "may affect" any threatened or endangered species, the Army should initiate formal consultation with the Service. Formal consultation concludes with the issuance of the Service's biological opinion, which determines whether the proposed action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a listed species or destroy or adversely modify any designated critical habitat. This process, known as Section 7 consultation, is described in detail in the Code of Federal Regulations, 50 CFR Part 402, and is summarized in Army Regulation (AR) 200-3, Chapter 11.

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\* Biodiversity has been defined as "...the variety of life and its processes, including the variety of living organisms, the genetic differences among them, and the communities and ecosystems in which they occur" (U.S. Department of Interior 1994). These guidelines focus on biodiversity at the species level.

There is an obvious need for sound biological information for attaining policy objectives and meeting legislative obligations with regard to endangered species. One of the most basic and important types of information is the distribution and abundance of animal and plant species within an area of concern. The guidelines in this report have been developed to assist Army personnel in acquiring this essential information.

## **Objectives**

The objectives of this report are to assist Army personnel in acquiring baseline information on biodiversity and endangered species in their area of jurisdiction and to provide a framework in which they can plan and carry out this task. The guidelines are intended as a source of advice on the subjects and issues that should be considered and addressed in completing biodiversity assessments. The surveys used to accomplish this should meet the approval of other government agencies. In addition, because most of the survey work is likely to be carried out under contract, these guidelines aim to assist Army personnel in developing accurate and meaningful scopes of work for those contracts.

## **Approach**

The basic layout of these guidelines is a series of steps that should be taken by installation personnel wishing to complete a survey. By following the process described in each of these steps, it is anticipated that Army personnel will be able to obtain information needed for regulatory and legislative compliance and for making sound land management decisions. Probably, many of the steps described here will not be performed by Army personnel, but will be completed through contracted services.

## **Scope**

Assessing the status of biodiversity and rare species on an installation can be viewed as having three sequential components: survey, inventory, and monitoring. These guidelines address the initial survey phase of these activities and are intended to give assistance in planning and conducting assessments of biodiversity, especially threatened and endangered species, on Army lands.

In this context, inventory is a detailed and complete assessment of the status of the resource. These guidelines will help identify species or other elements for which an inventory is justified. Monitoring is the process by which changes in the resources are assessed, usually with reference to specific management goals and programs (as in adaptive management, [Holling 1978, Walters 1986]). The results from these surveys are considered crucial building blocks for the later efforts; guidance documents covering these subjects are under preparation. This report does not address biodiversity *per se*, specifically its definition (Keystone Center 1991) or measurement (Hawksworth 1995, Lovejoy 1995, May 1995, Noss 1990, O'Donnell, Goodfellow, and Hawksworth 1995, Whitworth and Hill 1997).

### **Mode of Technology Transfer**

It is recommended that the process described in this report be used by the Army Environmental Center and Army personnel in planning, developing, and conducting or contracting biodiversity surveys.



## 2 Process Overview

### ***Step 1. Define objectives and scope***

Initially, it is important to clearly define what the surveys are intended to encompass. This includes delineation of the geographic area of interest, an assessment of what information is needed and how it should be reported, a review of particular species that may be present, consultation with regulatory personnel and local experts, and an assessment of the expertise that will be needed to complete the survey.

### ***Step 2. Gather information about the identification, survey methodology, ecology, and status of species identified in Step 1***

This information will be needed for designing the surveys and interpreting their results.

### ***Step 3. Gather background information on the survey area***

Information on the plant communities and/or habitats present, land use, and the general physiography of the area will also be needed for designing the surveys.

### ***Step 4. Refine objectives and scope***

Steps 2 and 3 may bring to light information that calls for modification of the scope identified in Step 1.

### ***Step 5. Prepare a survey plan***

This written plan presents the findings made during Steps 1 through 4. It should also detail specific survey methods for each taxonomic group to be surveyed and the sampling design.

***Step 6. Obtain all necessary licenses and permits***

State and Federal permits will be needed if surveys involve collecting plant or animal specimens, capturing animals, or disturbance of threatened or endangered species.

***Step 7. Conduct the surveys******Step 8. Report findings***

In addition to the results of the surveys, this report should make an assessment of the adequacy of the survey effort and make an evaluation of the potential implications of the findings for biodiversity conservation and base operations.

### 3 The Survey Process

Work elements relevant to each of the steps are given in Appendix A.

#### Step 1. Define objectives and scope

Ideally, a biodiversity assessment would assess the status of every species in all parts of a given installation. However, funds are limited and there may be time constraints for particular objectives such as endangered species surveys.

A basic consideration that needs to be addressed at the beginning of this step is whether one intends to do a biodiversity overview, a complete species inventory, or an assessment of the status of a particular endangered species (Table 1). For a biodiversity overview, the objective is to assess the general biodiversity present in the area by sampling a number of sites. The Army's Land Condition Trend Analysis (LCTA) program (Tazik, et al. 1992) can provide this sort of overview, but "additional data sources should be utilized to address known deficiencies and gaps in coverage" (Whitworth and Hill 1997). For a species inventory, essentially all areas would need to be intensively searched and surveyed in an attempt to document every species present. For endangered species surveys, particular habitats might be intensively surveyed with methods tailored to the target species. All three of these types of surveys provide useful information and there would be considerable value in doing all three in the order listed. However, priorities and constraints vary and the installation may choose to focus on one of these. For instance, compliance with the Endangered Species Act requires the endangered species surveys be undertaken, but does not address the other two types of assessments. On the other

**Table 2. Types of biodiversity assessments, their benefits, and approaches**

Type of Assessment	Benefit	Approach
Biodiversity overview	Identify areas/communities with high biodiversity and some identification of unique/rare species	Establish sampling areas throughout installation
Complete species inventory	List of all species present, not just relatively common or expected species	Requires extensive sampling and searching
Endangered species status	Information focused on particular species with specific information need	Customized in extent and methods

hand, compliance with Army policy and regulations with regard to biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management would require all three (AR 200-3). Each installation must assess the survey requirements for the areas under their jurisdiction.

It may be desirable to prioritize surveys for particular species or groups of species. The official list of threatened, endangered, and candidate species can be obtained from the USFWS. Completing surveys for candidate species is advisable in that documenting their occurrence may enable conservation prior to listing, thus avoiding the need for listing. Even in more comprehensive assessment efforts, it may be necessary to partition this major effort into several areas of focus as the context and design may vary dramatically from one area to the next, necessitating essentially separate planning and field operations. For instance, surveys for aquatic or cave-dwelling organisms require fundamentally different approaches and might be best handled separately. On the other hand, opportunities for parallel, complimentary, and integrated planning and sampling should be used. Small installations may be able to combine all these considerations in a single survey effort.

It may also be desirable to set priorities for assessment efforts based on a geography. Some parts of an installation may be considered more or less important for survey efforts. For instance, areas that are perceived to be biologically rich might be considered for more intensive sampling than allocated to biologically impoverished areas. It may also be desirable to give greater emphasis to areas with perceived biodiversity impacts (training areas) or to those with impacts anticipated in the future. Table 2 presents some factors that might be considered in sampling allocation decisions. Each state Natural Heritage Program has a listing of rare plant communities; that list should be consulted. In some cases, the geographic area of

**Table 2. Some factors influencing survey intensity and priority (modified from Nelson 1985)**

<b>Factor</b>	<b>More intensive survey</b>	<b>Less intensive survey</b>
Impacts	Areas that will be disturbed in the future	Areas not to be disturbed
Plant community	Communities known to support rare species or high diversity	Community types known not to support rare species or high diversity
Plant community	Locally rare community	Widespread community type
Vegetation density	Dense vegetation, tall canopies, thick understory	Open vegetation with good visibility
Naturalness	Less disturbed and degraded	More disturbed and degraded
Species visibility	Cryptic or small species	Species that are easily noticed
Soil	Uncommon/unusual soil type	Common soil type
Fragmentation	Highly heterogeneous or isolated areas	Uniform areas
Mission change	Change is highly probable	Static mission

interest may extend beyond installation boundaries. This would be appropriate if cooperative management with neighboring land managers is anticipated.

The detail of the information required is an important matter for consideration at this stage. For instance, is simple presence and absence information for a given species sufficient, or is some measure of population status or density needed? Might it be valuable to include some information relating to population parameters such as reproduction or population age structure?

For the species of interest, it should be determined which are likely to be present based on their geographic distribution. The local USFWS Field Office (for terrestrial and freshwater species), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS; for marine and anadromous species) and the state Natural Heritage Program (Appendix B) can provide information on probable occurrences for a particular area. If it has not already been incorporated into these data sources, additional distributional information can be obtained from historic records, biological collections (e.g., museums), local experts, published materials, and communications with other government agencies.

Contact with concerned government agencies should also be established at this point to provide input on defining the scope and objectives for the assessment. If the survey is for the purpose of ending non-compliance or avoiding non-compliance with a government regulation, or if it is a mitigative activity spawned from some other process, it is imperative that frequent, if not constant, communication occur between the installation and the regulatory agency concerning the development, execution, and reporting of the survey. Of primary importance in this interaction are the USFWS and the state wildlife agency. Other agencies that may provide valuable input are the Biological Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey (formerly the National Biological Survey), National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, the state Natural Heritage Program, and local societies or chapters of societies such as rare plant societies, the Audubon Society, the Sierra Club, and Defenders of Wildlife.

It is also necessary to identify the types of expertise that will be needed to carry out Steps 2 through 8 given the scope and objectives identified above. Such an assessment would include a consideration of the ability to classify/identify species involved, knowledge of specialized survey techniques, the ability to analyze data collected, and ability to present the survey findings in an organized, comprehensive, and meaningful way. Installation personnel need to assess the capabilities of their staff with regard to these requirements and determine which of the steps outlined

here will be accomplished by Army personnel and which will be contracted. Choosing the right consultant can be crucial in determining the success of the survey effort. Some considerations in selecting a consultant are outlined in Appendix C.

All of these considerations bear on the determination of the form and mediums required for delivery and storage of the information. Step 1 should include the requirement for a report of the findings; it should also specify which of the following may be required: raw data; database of surveys performed (place, time, extent); Global Positioning System (GPS) use and standards; or Geographical Information System (GIS) formatted output.

## **Step 2. Gather information about the identification, survey methodology, ecology, and status of species identified in Step 1**

Depending on the scope that was defined in Step 1, much of this information gathering will be done for groups of species such as all birds, or all herpetofauna. On the other hand, for very focused surveys for particular species, a more narrowly directed effort will be appropriate.

Obviously, to carry out surveys, the species involved must be identified correctly. For some species, such as birds, accurate and comprehensive field guides are available. For most other taxonomic groups, more technical treatments will need to be located. For instance, popular mammal field guides are fine for large, conspicuous species, but sometimes they don't contain sufficient information to accurately identify small mammals. Likewise, popular plant guides usually cover only the most common and conspicuous species. Comprehensive floral descriptions will be needed for floristic surveys. Those involved with the field surveys need to be experienced in making species identifications, not merely familiar with the general concepts. If this expertise is not available at the onset, adequate time for familiarization and practice must be included in the survey plan.

For many species, it may be necessary to collect specimens for correct identification. Information on collecting procedures and the labeling, preservation, and eventual disposition of these specimens should also be assembled.

Collecting, trapping, and other types of survey activities will require permits. If the survey plan calls for collecting voucher specimens of animals or trapping, a state wildlife collecting permit will probably be required. Local offices of state and Federal agencies should be contacted to determine permit requirements for the anticipated surveys. If university personnel are involved in capturing or handling

of wildlife, the approval of the university's humane use committee may be necessary. If the survey protocol involves any of the definitions of "taking" identified in the Endangered Species Act (e.g., harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, collect, or attempt to do any of these), a permit must be obtained from the USFWS (per Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act). Such activities with regard to state listed species may also incur additional state permitting requirements. In some cases, obtaining permits may take a year.

Survey methods vary widely both within and between taxonomic groups. In many cases, several survey methods have been developed for a given taxonomic group. It will be necessary to evaluate existing methods to determine the most appropriate method for the anticipated survey. If existing methods are, for some reason, not appropriate, customized methods may need to be developed. Careful consideration should also be given to methods used elsewhere in the region and historically so that the resulting information can be readily compared with that from other efforts.

The time(s) of year for conducting survey work also needs to be considered. Local or long-distance migrations may profoundly affect the occurrence of some species. Plant phenology is another significant factor that must be taken into account and an inventory of all plant species may necessitate surveys at several different times of the year. Some methods, such as call counts for birds and amphibians, are highly influenced by seasonal changes and are best conducted during the breeding season.

A knowledge of the ecology of the species to be surveyed is essential for assessing the most appropriate survey methods and in interpreting the results. Such factors include reproductive cycle or phenology, migration, home range and movements, habitat preferences, and social structure. For many species, such detailed information will not be available, but when it is available, it should be considered in survey design. For surveys that focus on a particular species, detailed information on ecology will help focus the effort in appropriate areas. For instance, a species may have quite particular habitat requirements or seasonal movement patterns. An understanding of those factors is essential for designing survey protocols.

For efforts focused on one or a few species, this information gathering should include an account of the status of the species in national, regional, local, and historic contexts. Specifically, populations (or individuals) previously recorded in the survey area should be identified.

Apart from reviewing published reference material to gather this background information, local experts and agency personnel mentioned in Step 1 should also be queried; these people may have considerable knowledge that has not been published.

If the USFWS has prepared a recovery plan for any of the species of interest, this should be a valuable source of information.

### **Step 3. Gather background information on the survey area**

For survey planning and reporting the results, it is necessary to have a sound understanding of the nature of the area being assessed. Such information should include topographic maps, aerial photographs, soil surveys, planning documents (e.g., environmental impact assessments), natural resource inventories, and hydrology and land use patterns. Ideally, one should obtain or develop a map of vegetation communities on all parts of the survey area. The map should use a recognized regional standard community classification system (such as used by the state Natural Heritage Program, the National Park Service, or the Biological Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey\*). Minimally, one should have a list of community types present in the area or region and an idea of which types are considered rare. In addition, special habitat features identified for particular species of interest in Step 2 should be identified and mapped, if feasible.

Detailed vegetation mapping is a time-consuming and expensive process, but should meet basic Federal and Army standards.\*\* Therefore, the degree of detail and refinement in the vegetation classification should be carefully considered. This will depend on the objectives of the assessment, but would likely focus on the alliance or community type level of classification. If the primary concern is with ecosystem, community, or general biodiversity assessment, the mapping should be as detailed in its classification scheme as possible. On the other hand, if the effort is directed primarily at achieving compliance for endangered species surveys, a focus on certain specific characteristics may be sufficient to identify important habitat features and will be more cost-effective (at least in the short term).

### **Step 4. Refine objectives and scope**

Information collected in Steps 2 and 3 may call for modifications to the scope identified in Step 1. For instance, if the installation is within the geographic range of a particular endangered species, it may have been identified for survey in Step 1.

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\* This vegetation classification and mapping system is currently under development. Further details are available from: <http://www.nbs.gov/npsveg> and <ftp://ftp.ttc.nbs.gov/pub/vegmapping/classification>.

\*\* Both Federal and Army standards are currently under development under the Federal Geographic Data Committee (Federal Register Volume 59, pp. 17671-17674) and the project "Development and testing of Army standard protocols for vegetation mapping" (P. Dubois, Ecologist, Army Environmental Center, 12 April 1996, pers. comm.).



However, if the species has narrow and specialized habitat requirements (identified in Step 2) and this habitat is not present on the installation (Step 3), surveys for this species may not be necessary. Likewise, Step 3 may identify habitats that were not known to be present and may deserve special attention because they are unique or rare, or are thought to have a high level of biological diversity.

It will also be necessary to select the specific methods to be used in the survey. Those selected should be judged by the following criteria:

1. Represent recognized standard methods
2. Acceptable to the scientific community and regulatory agencies (USFWS)
3. Identical or comparable to methods used historically or regionally
4. Cost-effective
5. Provide information on population processes as well as population status
6. Accurate, precise, and robust to observer variability
7. Unambiguously defined
8. Repeatable.

## **Step 5. Prepare a survey plan**

The survey plan is a detailed written plan that presents the findings made during Steps 1 through 4. It should, therefore, contain sections on the objectives and scope of the survey effort, a description of the site and its vegetation communities, details of sampling methodology for each species or group of species, and details of the sampling strategy and sampling allocation. For many species, standard protocols for performing surveys can be obtained from USFWS Field Offices. The sampling methodology and allocation should be unambiguously defined so that, should the surveys be repeated in the future, this plan will be sufficient to guide that effort. In addition, the rationale used in selecting methods and determining sampling procedures should be described. For instance, include the characteristics of the field methods considered important in making the selection. State whether the samples were randomly or subjectively distributed. List the criteria or system applied in determining sampling procedure and design (e.g., use of confidence intervals [Snedecor and Cochran 1972], statistical power [Cohen 1988], cluster sampling [Thompson 1992], species area relationships [Mueller-Dombois and Ellenberg 1974], or the relevè method [Barbour, et al. 1980, Mueller-Dombois and Ellenberg 1974], to name a few possibilities). Procedures for site documentation such as marking permanent plots (e.g., GPS) or making photographic records should also be specified.

For many taxonomic groups, voucher specimens should be collected. The survey plan should provide details on protocols to be used for collection, labeling, preservation, and disposition of all specimens collected. These protocols should be consistent with those of the institution that will eventually house the specimens.

At this stage it is advisable to obtain a review of the survey plan from organizations that are likely to review and assess the results. This would include the USFWS, state agencies, and any interested non-governmental organizations.

The survey plan should also include a methodology for coordinating all survey activities with appropriate installation personnel.

#### **Step 6. Obtain all necessary licenses and permits**

Proceed with the requirements identified in Step 2.

#### **Step 7. Conduct the surveys**

The surveys should be carried out according to the plan described in Step 5 and any departures from that plan should be documented.

#### **Step 8. Report findings**

As the one document that contains all the relevant information from the survey effort, the survey report should include a comprehensive review of the development, planning, and outcome of the survey effort. The report should state explicitly what the background, goals, and objectives of the survey were, and should contain a detailed description of the methods and sampling procedures used. Complete records of the location and status of rare, sensitive, threatened, or endangered species should be sent to the state Natural Heritage Program for inclusion in their database. Because the exact location and extent of specific populations of rare species is of major importance, the results of the survey(s) should be reported in considerable detail, but these details should be reviewed and summarized in the context of the management area to which they are relevant. Information on historic records of species should also be included. Any particular ecological features or elements (e.g., wetland or a geological feature) that are important in sustaining biodiversity should be identified and the role of these features described. The implications of the findings for the conservation of biodiversity and land use and land

management activities should also be discussed. Finally, priorities for future activities should be discussed with respect to three areas: protection, management and land use, and further information gathering.

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## **Appendix A: Work Elements for Scopes of Work for Performing Surveys**

The following work elements may be assembled into groups to define the tasks in a Scope of Work for a contract. The level of detail required may vary considerably. For instance, detailed information on every species would not be desirable for a general biodiversity survey, or a thorough taxonomic review may not be necessary for well-known vertebrates, whereas it might be considered essential for plants or invertebrates.

### **Step 1. Define objectives and scope**

Out of necessity, most of the scoping described in Step 1 will have to be done by installation personnel because much of this has to do with setting priorities.

### **Step 2. Gather information about the identification, survey methodology, ecology, and status of species identified in Step 1**

1. Determine the classification and nomenclature of the taxon, including the following information:
  - A. Scientific name.
    - i. Bi - or trinomial with author(s) and full bibliographic citation(s).
    - ii. Type specimen.
  - B. Synonyms with full bibliographic citations.
  - C. Common names.
  - D. History of taxon.
  - E. Alternative systematic treatments of the taxon. Clarification of any taxonomic questions.
2. Determine the present legal or other formal status of the taxon.
  - A. International.
  - B. National.
  - C. State.
3. Provide the following descriptive information:
  - A. General non-technical description.

- B. Technical description.
  - C. Local field characters.
  - D. Original 35 mm color slides showing, as appropriate,
    - i. Adult and immature, juvenile, or larval stages, eggs, nests, or other taxon-specific features.
    - ii. Mature plant, flowers, fruits and vegetative structures.
  - E. Line drawing showing, as appropriate,
    - i. Adult and immature, juvenile, or larval stages, eggs, nests, or other taxon-specific features.
    - ii. Mature plant, flowers, fruits and vegetative structures.
4. Determine the geographical distribution of the taxon.
- A. Prepare a range map depicting the distribution, by county, of the taxon. Symbolically represent the current status of each population (extant or extirpated).
  - B. Make a preliminary examination of the precise occurrences of the taxon by examination of museum or herbarium specimens, review of the literature, examination of Heritage Program data, discussions with knowledgeable amateur and professional biologists and any other available sources. Provide the following for each population:
    - i. State and county in which it occurs.
    - ii. Latitude and longitude.
    - iii. Population size (number of individuals) and area covered.
    - iv. Year of discovery.
    - v. Year of most recent observation or collection.
    - vi. Status according to the following categories:
      - (1) Extant populations.
      - (2) Extirpated populations, with reasons for loss.
      - (3) Historical populations with currently unknown status.
      - (4) Populations with ambiguous or incomplete locality information.
      - (5) Population reports believed to be erroneous, with explanation of why erroneous.
5. Make a preliminary characterization of the taxon's physical habitat and habitat requirements, including:
- A. Description of its general environment and habitat, community associations.
  - B. Physical characteristics of its habitat such as climate (macro and micro), soils, physiographic province, physiographic and topographic relationships and taxon-environment interrelationships.
6. Review the ecology of the taxon, include:
- A. Life history (as appropriate for the taxon).
    - i. Home range and movements.

- ii. Migration.
    - iii. Phenology.
    - iv. Mode of reproduction (as appropriate for the taxon).
      - (1) Nesting habits.
      - (2) Flowering, fruiting, and germination biology.
  - B. Interspecific interactions.
  - C. Demography.
    - i. Population sizes and densities.
    - ii. Reproductive rates.
    - iii. Mortality rates and causes.
  - D. Food Habits (as appropriate).
  - E. Special habitat characteristics.
  - F. Threats.
  - G. Management and research needs.
7. Review and compare methods for performing field surveys for the taxon, including:
- A. Description of the methods.
  - B. Discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of each.
  - C. Recommendations on implementation of surveys for the taxon, including:
    - i. Selection of available methods or improvements or development of new methods.
    - ii. Temporal sampling considerations (seasonal, nocturnal, etc.).
  - D. Description of qualifications required for surveyors using this method.
  - E. Description of permits that will be required to execute such a survey, including:
    - i. Type of permit.
    - ii. Administering agency.
    - iii. Application procedure.
    - iv. Costs or fees.

### Step 3. Gather background information on the survey area

- 1. Environmental characteristics.
  - A. Climate.
  - B. Topography.
  - C. Geology.
  - D. Hydrology.
  - E. Soils.
- 2. Major ecological community types present in the survey area. For each provide:
  - A. Name and formal classification system.



- B. Synonyms.
  - C. Rare species that occur in this community.
    - i. Plants.
    - ii. Animals.
    - iii. Other.
  - D. Characteristic species of the community.
  - E. Identifying characteristics of the community.
  - F. Location of examples of the community in the survey area.
  - G. Management guidelines for the community.
3. Status and location of special habitat features for taxon of interest.

#### **Step 4. Refine objectives and scope**

It is anticipated that this reassessment of Step 1 will be done by installation personnel also, based on the findings presented in Steps 2 and 3.

#### **Step 5. Prepare a survey plan**

1. Essentially, all of the background work completed up to this stage should be incorporated into this plan. As such, it may be considered to have two functions:
  - A. A plan for the surveys to be conducted.
  - B. A draft of the sections of the final report that will deal with background information.
2. The plan should have the following parts:
  - A. Objectives and Scope. This presents the results of Step 4.
  - B. Description of Site. This presents the results of Step 3.
  - C. Review of Taxon. This presents the results of Step 2.1-2.6.
  - D. Variables to be recorded. This will differ substantially between taxonomic groups, but may include:
    - i. Biological characteristics of the taxon including:
      - (1) Vegetation physiognomy, community structure and regional vegetation type of locations surveyed.
      - (2) Species associated with significant elements, including other endangered, threatened, rare or special concern species.
      - (3) Dominance (cover or basal area) and frequency in each community type in which it occurs (for plants).

- ii. Population biology of the taxon including:
    - (1) Demography. Define age (size) classes and census methods used to determine area and number reported.
      - (a) Areas occupied by the populations (for localized taxons).
      - (b) Number and/or age or size classes of individuals in each population.
      - (c) Density of individuals in each population.
      - (d) Evidence of reproduction.
      - (e) Evidence of population trends (increasing, declining, etc.).
      - (f) Evidence of range expansion or compression.
    - (2) Phenology or life cycle information.
    - (3) Reproductive biology.
  - iii. Evidence of threats to survival such as:
    - (1) Present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of habitat or range.
    - (2) Overuse for commercial, sporting, scientific, or educational purposes.
    - (3) Disease or predation.
    - (4) Inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms.
    - (5) Other natural or man-made factors.
- E. Survey Method. Describe the survey method(s) recommended in Step 2.7. Include animal welfare considerations.
- F. Sampling Design. On the basis of Step 4, using the method(s) recommended above, explicitly describe the distribution and intensity of sampling to be used with that method.
- G. Specimen Protocol, including:
- i. Guidelines explaining conditions and situations that will call for specimen collection.
  - ii. Description of preservation methods.
  - iii. Provisions for curation and disposition of the specimens.
- H. Quality Assurance/Quality Control Plan.
- i. Provisions for:
    - (1) Consistency.
    - (2) Accuracy.
    - (3) Error trapping.
    - (4) Data archiving.
    - (5) Documentation of survey execution. Maintain a database of field activities containing the following fields:
      - (a) Surveyor.
      - (b) Date.
      - (c) Name of area surveyed.

- (d) Taxon sought.
  - (e) GPS-referenced location of study plot and/or series of locations indicating search path.
- (6) Suggested review process for the plan.
- I. Proposed work schedule for completing the surveys including personnel breakdown.
- J. Detailed description of provisions for coordinating field activities with other installation activities.
- 3. The plan should be written and organized in such a way that all or part of it can be used to develop the scope of work for execution of the surveys.

## **Step 6. Obtain all necessary licenses and permits**

This must be done by the organization/persons who will carry out Step 7.

## **Step 7. Conduct the surveys**

Conduct the surveys according to the plan developed in Step 5.

## **Step 8. Report findings**

The report of survey findings should cover the following topics:

1. Objectives and Scope. This section may be taken directly from the survey plan, but it should be written for a reader who may not have seen the plan.
2. Survey Area Description. Information in the survey plan should be sufficient for this section also.
3. Methods. Provide detailed description of the methods that were used including:
  - A. Type of survey (transects, point counts, trapping, search strategies)
  - B. Sampling procedures: the distribution of surveys in time in space.
4. Survey Results, specifically:
  - A. What was encountered.
  - B. How many, or how much was encountered.
  - C. Where the significant elements were encountered, and when.
  - D. Negative results: where were particular elements searched for and not encountered and, in particular, where were they expected, but not encountered.

5. Interpretation of Results.
  - A. Status: how do the results of the survey change our understanding of the status of the taxons of interest in local, regional, national, and international contexts.
  - B. Ecology: describe and summarize the findings of the survey in terms of the ecology of the species and/or communities of interest.
6. Management Implications:
  - A. How might these results affect base operations?
  - B. What additional information would be useful in pursuing biodiversity conservation objectives for the area?
  - C. What could or should be done to improve current conditions?
7. Prioritization of Biodiversity and Endangered Species Concerns.
  - A. Preservation.
  - B. Land use and management issues (other than preservation).
  - C. Further information needs.
8. Assessment of Adequacy.
  - A. Did the survey accomplish the objectives originally set out?
  - B. If not, what additional efforts would be appropriate?

## Appendix B: State Natural Heritage Program Offices<sup>\*</sup>

Alabama Natural Heritage Section  
State Lands Division  
Department of Conservation & Natural  
Resources  
Folsom Administration Building  
64 N. Union Street, Room 421  
Montgomery, AL 36130  
334/242-3484 Fax: 334/242-0098  
Internet: alnhp@wsnet.com

Alaska Natural Heritage Program  
707 A Street, Suite 208  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
907/257-2702 Fax: 907/258-9139  
Back-up Fax: 907/276-6847  
Internet: ANRL@ORION.alaska.edu

Arizona Heritage Data Management  
System  
Arizona Game & Fish Department  
WM-H  
2221 W. Greenway Road  
Phoenix, AZ 85023  
602/789-3612 Fax: 602/789-3928  
Internet: hdms@gf.state.az.us  
Internet: hdms1@gf.state.az.us

Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission  
Suite 1500, Tower Building  
323 Center Street  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
501/324-9150 Fax: 501/324-9618

California Natural Heritage Division  
Department of Fish & Game  
1220 S Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916/322-2493 Fax: 916/324-0475

Colorado Natural Heritage Program  
Colorado State University  
254 General Services Building  
Fort Collins, CO 80523  
970/491-1309 Fax: 970/491-3349  
Internet: heritage@lamar.colostate.edu

Connecticut Natural Diversity Database  
Natural Resources Center  
Department of Environmental Protection  
79 Elm Street, Store Level  
Hartford, CT 06106-5127  
860/424-3540 Fax: 860/424-4058

Delaware Natural Heritage Program  
Division of Fish & Wildlife  
Department of Natural Resources &  
Environmental Control  
4876 Hay Point Landing Road  
Smyrna, DE 19977  
302/653-2880 Fax: 302/653-3431

District of Columbia Natural Heritage  
Program  
13025 Riley's Lock Road  
Poolesville, MD 20837  
301/427-1354 Fax: 301/427-1355

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<sup>\*</sup>Source: <http://www.abi.org/nhp/directory>

Florida Natural Areas Inventory  
1018 Thomasville Road  
Suite 200-C  
Tallahassee, FL 32303  
904/224-8207; Fax: 904/681-9364

Georgia Natural Heritage Program  
Wildlife Resources Division  
Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
2117 U.S. Highway 278 S.E.  
Social Circle, GA 30279  
706/557-3032 or 770/918-6411  
Fax: 706/557-3033; 706/557-3040  
Internet:  
[natural\\_heritage@mail.dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:natural_heritage@mail.dnr.state.ga.us)

Hawaii Natural Heritage Program  
The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii  
1116 Smith Street, Suite 201  
Honolulu, HI 96817  
808/537-4508 Fax: 808/545-2019

Idaho Conservation Data Center  
Department of Fish & Game  
600 South Walnut Street, Box 25  
Boise, ID 83707-0025  
208/334-3402 Fax: 208/334-2114

Illinois Natural Heritage Division  
Department of Natural Resources  
524 South Second Street  
Springfield, IL 62701-1787  
217/785-8774 Fax: 217/785-8277

Indiana Natural Heritage Data Center  
Division of Nature Preserves  
Department of Natural Resources  
402 West Washington Street, Room W267  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
317/232-4052 Fax: 317/233-0133

Iowa Natural Areas Inventory  
Department of Natural Resources  
Wallace State Office Building  
Des Moines, IA 50319-0034  
515/281-8524 Fax: 515/281-6794

Kansas Natural Heritage Inventory  
Kansas Biological Survey  
2041 Constant Avenue  
Lawrence, KS 66047-2906  
913/864-3453 Fax: 913/864-5093

Kentucky Natural Heritage Program  
Kentucky State Nature Preserves  
Commission  
801 Schenkel Lane  
Frankfort KY 40601  
502/573-2886 Fax: 502/573-2355

Louisiana Natural Heritage Program  
Department of Wildlife & Fisheries  
P.O. Box 98000  
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000  
504/765-2821 Fax: 504/765-2607

Maine Natural Areas Program  
Department of Conservation  
(FedEx/UPS: 159 Hospital Street)  
93 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0093  
207/287-8044 Fax: 207/287-8040  
Internet: [mnap@state.me.us](mailto:mnap@state.me.us)  
Web site:  
<http://www.state.me.us/doc/mnap/home.htm>

Maryland Heritage and Biodiversity  
Conservation Programs  
Department of Natural Resources  
Tawes State Office Building, E-1  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
410/974-2870 Fax: 410/974-5590

Massachusetts Natural Heritage  
& Endangered Species Program  
Division of Fisheries & Wildlife  
Route 135  
Westborough, MA 01581  
508/792-7270 ext. 200 Fax: 508/792-7275

Michigan Natural Features Inventory  
Mason Building, 5th floor  
(FedEx/UPS: 530 W Allegan, 48933)  
Box 30444  
Lansing, MI 48909-7944  
517/373-1552 Fax: 517/373-6705

Minnesota Natural Heritage & Nongame  
Research  
Department of Natural Resources  
500 Lafayette Road, Box 7  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
612/297-4964 Fax: 612/297-4961

Mississippi Natural Heritage Program  
Museum of Natural Science  
111 North Jefferson Street  
Jackson, MS 39201-2897  
601/354-7303 Fax: 601/354-7227

Missouri Natural Heritage Database  
Missouri Department of Conservation  
P.O. Box 180  
(FedEx: 2901 West Truman Blvd)  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180  
314/751-4115 Fax: 314/526-5582

Montana Natural Heritage Program  
State Library Building  
1515 E. 6th Avenue  
Helena, MT 59620  
406/444-3009 Fax: 406/444-0581  
Internet: [mtnhp@nris.msl.mt.gov](mailto:mtnhp@nris.msl.mt.gov)  
Homepage/World Wide Web:  
<http://nris.msl.mt.gov/mtnhp/nhp-dir.html>

Nebraska Natural Heritage Program  
Game and Parks Commission  
2200 North 33rd Street  
P.O. Box 30370  
Lincoln, NE 68503  
402/471-5421 Fax: 402/471-5528

Nevada Natural Heritage Program  
Department of Conservation & Natural Resources  
1550 E. College Parkway, Suite 145  
Carson City, NV 89710  
702/687-4245 Fax: 702/885-0868

New Hampshire Natural Heritage  
Inventory  
Department of Resources & Economic  
Development  
172 Pembroke Street  
P.O. Box 1856  
Concord, NH 03302  
603/271-3623 Fax: 603/271-2629

New Jersey Natural Heritage Program  
Office of Natural Lands Management  
22 South Clinton Avenue, CN404  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0404  
609/984-1339 Fax: 609/984-1427

New Mexico Natural Heritage Program  
University of New Mexico  
2500 Yale Boulevard, SE, Suite 100  
Albuquerque, NM 87131-1091  
505/277-1991 Fax: 505/277-7587

New York Natural Heritage Program  
Department of Environmental  
Conservation  
700 Troy-Schenectady Road  
Latham, NY 12110-2400  
518/783-3932 Fax: 518/783-3916  
518/783-3946

North Carolina Heritage Program  
NC Department of Environment, Health  
& Natural Resources  
Division of Parks Recreation  
P.O. Box 27687  
Raleigh, NC 27611-7687  
919/733-7701 Fax: 919/715-3085

North Dakota Natural Heritage Inventory  
North Dakota Parks & Recreation  
Department  
1835 Bismarck Expressway  
Bismarck, ND 58504  
701/328-5357 Fax: 701/328-5363

Ohio Natural Heritage Data Base  
Division of Natural Areas & Preserves  
Department of Natural Resources  
Fountain Square, Building F-1  
Columbus, OH 43224  
614/265-6453 Fax: 614/267-3096  
Internet: [wiewissr@freenet.columbus.oh.us](mailto:wiewissr@freenet.columbus.oh.us)

Oklahoma Natural Heritage Inventory  
Oklahoma Biological Survey  
111 East Chesapeake Street  
University of Oklahoma  
Norman, OK 73019-0575  
405/325-1985 Fax: 405/325-7702  
Web site:  
<http://obssun02.uoknor.edu/biosurvey/onhi/home.html>

Oregon Natural Heritage Program  
Oregon Field Office  
821 SE 14th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97214  
503/731-3070; 230-1221 Fax: 503/230-9639

Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory  
PNDI-East  
The Nature Conservancy  
34 Airport Drive  
Middletown, PA 17057  
717/948-3962 Fax: 717/948-3957

Rhode Island Natural Heritage Program  
Department of Environmental  
Management  
Division of Planning & Development  
83 Park Street  
Providence, RI 02903  
401/277-2776, x4308 Fax: 401/277-2069

South Carolina Heritage Trust  
SC Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 167  
Columbia, SC 29202  
803/734-3893  
Fax: 803/734-6310 (Call first)

South Dakota Natural Heritage Data Base  
SD Department of Game, Fish & Parks  
Wildlife Division  
523 E. Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501-3182  
605/773-4227 Fax: 605/773-6245

Tennessee Division of Natural Heritage  
Department of Environment & Conservation  
401 Church Street  
Life and Casualty Tower, 8th Floor  
Nashville, TN 37243-0447  
615/532-0431 Fax: 615/532-0614

Texas Biological and Conservation Data  
System  
3000 South IH-35 , Suite 100  
Austin, TX 78704  
512/912-7011 Fax: 512/912-7058

Utah Natural Heritage Program  
Division of Wildlife Resources  
1596 West North Temple  
Salt Lake City, UT 84116  
801/538-4761 Fax: 801/538-4709



Vermont Nongame & Natural Heritage  
Program

Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department  
103 S. Main Street, 10 South  
Waterbury, VT 05671-0501  
802/241-3700 Fax: 802/241-3295

Virginia Division of Natural Heritage  
Department of Conservation & Recreation  
Main Street Station  
1500 E. Main Street, Suite 312  
Richmond, VA 23219  
804/786-7951 Fax: 804/371-2674

Washington Natural Heritage Program  
Department of Natural Resources  
(FedEx: 1111 Washington Street, SE)  
P.O. Box 47016  
Olympia, WA 98504-7016  
360/902-1340 Fax: 360/902-1783

West Virginia Natural Heritage Program  
Department of Natural Resources  
Operations Center  
Ward Road, P.O. Box 67  
Elkins, WV 26241  
304/637-0245 Fax: 304/637-0250

Wisconsin Natural Heritage Program  
Endangered Resources/4  
Department of Natural Resources  
101 S. Webster Street, Box 7921  
Madison, WI 53707  
608/266-7012 Fax: 608/266-2925

Wyoming Natural Diversity Database  
1604 Grand Avenue, Suite 2  
Laramie, WY 82070  
307/745-5026  
Fax: 307/745-5026 (Call first)  
Internet: wynd@internetmci.com

## Appendix C: Selecting a Consultant

Usually, a consultant will be selected in the context of the tasks described in Appendix A. Some general criteria to consider (adapted from Nelson 1985) are:

1. Specialized training in identification of the species to be surveyed. Most often will entail relevant college course work.
2. Knowledge of the locally occurring species.
3. Experience in field studies and relevant survey methods.
4. Familiarity with Federal and state laws and regulations that the survey is designed to address and those that govern survey activities (e.g., trapping and collecting).
5. Demonstrated ability to analyze information/data and prepare comprehensive and detailed technical reports.
6. Certification by professional society and prior customer satisfaction.
7. Enthusiasm for field studies and the physical capability to conduct the work.
8. Possession of state and Federal permits necessary for conducting the surveys, or ability to obtain these permits.

In many cases, consultants meeting these criteria will be found at the state Natural Heritage Program. According to Army Regulation 200-3 (Chapter 2-7-c), competitive bids are not required for contracts for these kinds of services from state or local agencies. Also, a Memorandum of Agreement exists between the Department of Defense and The Nature Conservancy which can facilitate these contracts.

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Defense Distribution Region West  
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HQ XVIII Airborne Corps 28307  
ATTN: AFZA-DPW-EE

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ATTN: APEN-A

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ATTN: Infrastructure Branch LANDA

Area Engineer, AEDC-Area Office  
Arnold Air Force Station, TN 37389

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ATTN: ATSE-DAC-FL  
ATTN: Australian Liaison Office

Military Dist of WASH  
Fort McNair  
ATTN: ANEN-IS 20319

USA Engr Activity, Capital Area  
ATTN: Library 22211

US Army ARDEC 07806-5000  
ATTN: AMSTA-AR-IMC

Engr Societies Library  
ATTN: Acquisitions 10017

U.S. EPA, Region V  
ATTN: AFRC-ENIL-FE 60561

U.S. Army Environmental Center  
ATTN: SFIM-AEC-NR 21010  
ATTN: SFIM-AEC-CR 64152  
ATTN: SFIM-AEC-SR 30335-6801  
ATTN: AFIM-AEC-WR 80022-2108

Defense Nuclear Agency  
ATTN: NADS 20305

Defense Logistics Agency  
ATTN: MMDIS 22060-6221

National Guard Bureau 20310  
ATTN: NGB-ARI

US Military Academy 10996  
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